

The Sumpter Miner

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF SUMPTER

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY

J. W. CONNELLA

T. G. GWYNNE, EDITOR

Entered at the postoffice in Sumpter, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.25

ALWAYS IN ADVANCE.



THAT BURNT RIVER ROAD.

There are people in Sumpter, business men, who are complaining because the Burnt river country has been connected with Sumpter by a wagon road. They say that it injures their business. Their reason for this is that the farmers there bring the products of their ranches to Sumpter and sell them, thus depriving merchants here of the sale of a few articles. The Miner cannot comprehend the mental operation that reaches this conclusion. It has been advised by several citizens to ridicule into silence these objectors; but it is going to do nothing of the kind, believing that not to be the proper way to handle a very unusual and incomprehensible situation. It would seem to be wiser to treat this matter seriously, to state the proposition clearly and see if these gentlemen who have assumed such an unexpected, inexplicable attitude on the question will not change their minds.

This road to the Burnt river country makes Sumpter the trading point for more than a hundred families of prosperous farmers. They produce cattle, sheep, chickens, eggs, hay, vegetables, etc., from which they derive their money revenue. They buy groceries, dry good, clothing, furniture, hardware, medicines and numerous other articles. Until recently all of this farm produce was shipped in here from the Grande Ronde and Willamette valleys, possibly other localities, not one cent of the money paid for which has been spent with Sumpter merchants.

Farmers buy their goods where they sell their products. Take the case under discussion, for instance. Does any man believe that the Burnt river people will come to Sumpter, sell their stuff, for cash, return home and make a three days trip over poor roads to Baker City to buy their goods, merely to save the additional charge made here of the railroad freight between Baker City and Sumpter? If there are any who can believe such an absurdity, all that is necessary to convince them of their error is to keep cases on the next Burnt river farmer who comes to Sumpter. All who have made the trip heretofore have taken home their wagons loaded with Sumpter merchandise.

It is, indeed, difficult for any one to understand how a sane man can maintain that it is the wiser business policy for Sumpter to send its money to some distant point, from which there is no possible hope of ever getting one cent of it returned, than it is to buy these articles of food from nearby farms, who will turn around and spend that money with home merchants. R. E. Strahorn, than whom there is not a shrewder business man anywhere, and who subscribed liberally towards the con-

struction of the road, for the general good of the town, stated to The Miner three years ago, when it first began the agitation of the enterprise, that if he were engaged in the mercantile business in Sumpter, he would consider it a good business investment to construct the road himself, unaided.

So far as the trade of these farmers which the several merchants secure, they must hustle for that themselves, and they will make more money by doing so than by endeavoring to organize a boycott against The Miner because it has aided with its influence and its money in the construction of this road. Furthermore, instead of withdrawing their advertisements from The Miner and inducing others to do so, it will pay them in dollars to use its columns to secure that trade, for these farmers are showing their appreciation of The Miner's efforts in this direction in a substantial manner, by subscribing for it; that is what fifty per cent of them have already done.

Press dispatches contain the information that the Everett smelter and the Monte Cristo mines, recently acquired by the trust, will resume operations at once.

In San Francisco Saturday, W. B. Ewing was sentenced to fifteen months in San Quentin and to pay a fine of five hundred dollars by United States District Judge Dehaven. Ewing was an oil promoter who was found guilty of using the mails to defraud many victims on the coast. Next?

The state of Washington shows diverse moral conditions. At one end of the commonwealth, Spokane to wit, disorderly resorts are being closed and an era of municipal purity is dawning, while at the other, Everett, namely, the festive dance hall will be opened and slot machines allowed to run.

A new record price of \$15,000 a ton has been established for whalebone. Two and one-quarter tons brought that price in a sale at Dun-lee, England. The previous high mark was \$12,000. Experts say the visible supply is now only four tons in England and America.

Portland papers report that the two corporations of that town which started in to fight the obnoxious Eddy law, on the ground that it is unconstitutional, are quitters. Mining companies that have not patented their ground are in a different boat from manufacturing companies, and seem neither to be worrying over the law nor paying the exorbitant license fee.

M. Leroy Beaulieu, an eminent author on Russia, and the Far East, being asked what he thought of Russia's controversy with Japan, he made the following reply: "In the event of war I am convinced neither party will be able to conquer the other. Russia will not be able to penetrate into Japan and administer a conclusive and lasting overthrow, and Japan will equally be unable to penetrate into Russia and give a lasting effect to any temporary triumphs." And what will happen then, what will be the final result?

The politicians in the democratic party, congressmen, senators and the like, are largely opposed to Bryan—

as the republican politicians are to Roosevelt, because neither can be "lauded", both are men of strong will and conviction. There is, however, this marked difference between the attitude of the politicians to the two men: in the case of Bryan it is open and above board, bold and insolent; with Roosevelt, the president, however, it is underhanded, servile. It is unnecessary to point out the cause.

Members of the University of Chicago faculty may criticize, whether favorably or otherwise, the action of J. D. Rockefeller, the institution's most liberal benefactor, without fear of dismissal. This announcement was made by President Harper to the senior class at the university recently, in response to a question. "The members of the faculty have a right to say what they please," said President Harper. "The university stands for free speech." They say what they please, but not what they think, if they wish to hold their jobs.

There is still another objectionable character mixed up very prominently in the mining world; he who has through good fortune secured the backing of a few wealthy men, feels his oats, becomes irritatingly "chesty" and never overlooks an opportunity to sneer at "stock schemes." The average individual would much prefer to deal with a few men in securing money for mining operations than with hundreds, but it is far more difficult to secure money in large amounts than in many small "bunches," so the vast majority of operators must resort to the latter method, offer their stock for sale to all who will buy. A dozen promoters succeed in this way to one who interests large capital.

The Standard Oil company has shown its generosity, yea its magnanimity, in other things besides college donations and Baptist churches. The cold term of soulless corporation should no longer be applied in this instance. And why? Because it has been demonstrated beyond the remotest question, beyond the most removed chance for deducing an opposite conclusion, in short, beyond doubt, that John D.'s combine is full of soul, full of the lacteal fluid of human kindness, full of sympathy and tenderness, love and appreciation. Here's the clincher to the statement: An employe at the company's Bayonne plant saved a \$100,000 cargo of oil, at the risk of his life, and was generously rewarded for his bravery by a half holiday!

If, during the county seat excitement over in Grant county, the Granite, Alamo and Greenhorn districts should attain their desire to break away and be annexed to Baker county, that would be a hot josh on the John Day country. And again, should, under these circumstances, the Sumpter, Bourne, McEwen and Whitney districts unite with Granite, Alamo and Greenhorn and organize a new and separate county, with Sumpter as the seat of government, that would be a hilarious joke, on Baker City. We could name the new county Chamberlain; or, honor some local worthy citizen by calling it McCulloch, Gleason, Miller, Johns, Stinson, Ellis or Goss. All in favor of naming this new county Robbins, please hand in their names, with two dollars, to be applied on their subscription to The Miner.

It is noteworthy, says the New York Commercial, that while American products are constantly making

headway in Asia, Africa and other quarters of the globe outside of Europe, over two-thirds of our merchandise exports in 1903 went to European countries. Out of a total of \$1,500,000,000 of exports from the United States last year, Europe took nearly \$1,100,000,000. It is hardly surprising, in the light of such figures, that there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth among our European rivals over the American invasion of home markets and that all sorts of devices and schemes are projected in order to "meet American competition." And the exasperating thing is that Europe dare not shut out many of our exports absolutely, for to do so would be a direct invitation to domestic riot and insurrection.

To those people who are disposed to think and say that mining is but a form of gambling, The Pacific Coast Miner calls attention to the official statistics of the past year in relation to this industry. From this it will appear that, taken as a whole, there is no form of investment that has less of the gambling than legitimate mining. As to matters of chance, there is less of it in mining than in farming, with its constant danger of failure of crop; or in manufacture, with its possibility of shrinkage in value. The statistics show that 161 public companies operating mines and metallurgical works in America paid in dividends during 1903 the sum of \$139,440,971. Out of this amount \$107,770,971, or \$15,221,029 less than 1902, was paid by 65 industrial companies. The metal mining companies in the dividend list numbered 96, and distributed \$31,670,000, which is \$3,818,000 more than was reported in 1902. The copper companies lead, seventeen of them paying \$15,989,000. In the silver, lead and gold list there are represented 72 "bread-winners," with a total disbursement of \$14,712,000.

There are two obstructionists who stand eternally in the gateway of progress, says the Mining and Engineering Review. They are found in every industry and the mining business is not exempt from their evil influences. The pessimist and his twin brother, the fakir, though diametrically opposed to each other's method, manage to accomplish the same results, by destroying confidence and casting a gloom over any industry which is unfortunately cursed by their malign presence.

We have given heretofore so many definitions of a fakir that the public have a very clear idea as to what constitutes one. It is possible to expose and pillory a fakir; to render his illegitimate business unprofitable and to destroy his power for evil. But to deal with the pessimist is more difficult. His insinuations and insidious methods are hidden often by a business-like exterior. He can be generally described as a self-opinionated ass who is ready at all times to give a report on something of which he knows nothing. And his report is always a damaging one.

He enters into a discussion on the mining industry, for instance. He may never have seen a mine, but that makes no difference to him. He believes (somebody told him, he never thinks) that the mining business is a gamble; that everyone interested in it are either thieves or gamblers and he denounces the whole industry, and, like the snake in the grass, the nearer home he can strike the better he likes it.